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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)**  
**OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

May 5, 2005

*Note: The last situation report was dated August 20, 2004.*

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1998, regional armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has claimed an estimated 3.3 million lives and displaced 3.4 million residents. In August 1999, the governments of the DRC (GDRC), Angola (GRA), Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe and the main Congolese opposition groups—the Rwanda-backed Congolese Democratic Assembly (RCD) and the Uganda-backed Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC)—signed the Lusaka Peace Accords. The accords agreed to a ceasefire and discussions for implementing peace via the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD). In November 1999, the U.N. Mission in DRC (MONUC) arrived to monitor the ceasefire and assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and repatriation of foreign forces. After the ICD concluded in April 2003, President Joseph Kabila promulgated the transitional constitution, scheduled to govern the DRC until national elections in June 2005. In July 2003, signatories and civil society began sharing four vice-presidential positions and other key government posts.

Although prospects for peace have improved at the national level, the transitional government has yet to extend authority to eastern DRC. Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR)/Interahamwe (Rwandans implicated in the 1994 genocide who subsequently fled to eastern DRC), Mai-Mai factions (bands of local Congolese originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation), and ethnic or clan-based armed opposition groups in some areas continue to threaten security. However, some civilian and military leaders of the FDLR have recently expressed a willingness to stop the armed struggle. During the summer of 2003, in response to increased ethnic violence and widespread population displacement in Ituri District, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) strengthened MONUC's mandate and increased the authorized force from 8,700 to 10,800 troops. On March 30, 2005 MONUC's mandate was further extended until October 2005. MONUC is currently the largest U.N. peacekeeping operation in the world, with 16,700 troops.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 24 million people in the DRC remain vulnerable due to the effects of conflict and continued insecurity. Poverty is widespread, and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting. Sporadic insecurity restricts access to agricultural land and traditional markets and prevents many displaced populations from returning. For 2005, the U.N. Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) launched in November 2004, requested nearly \$201 million in humanitarian assistance for the DRC. As of April 30, the CAP was only 18 percent funded.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	2,329,000	UN CAP (November 2004)
Refugees in the DRC	230,000	UN CAP (November 2004)
DRC Refugees in Tanzania, Republic of Congo, Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Gabon, Uganda, and Angola	380,000	UNHCR (December 2004)

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC .....\$6,094,252  
Total FY 2005 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC .....\$30,763,340

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

**Ongoing violence in eastern DRC.** Despite several ongoing peace initiatives and some improvement in the overall security situation in the DRC, conflict in late 2004 between former opposition soldiers and the new, integrated national army resulted in the displacement of approximately 150,000 people in Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province. Former opposition soldiers also looted Nyabiondo town following an advance by Mai-Mai forces, leading to displacement of the entire population of the town and surrounding localities. South Kivu

Province also experienced a number of acute emergencies in recent months, including flooding in Uvira town, displacements in Walungu and Minova districts due to conflict, and an outbreak of cholera throughout the province.

**Transitional Government and elections.** According to USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) field reports, elections continue to dominate public debate in the DRC. Although elections were scheduled for June

30, formal voter registration is not expected to begin until that month. On April 28, the DRC's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) asked parliament to extend the transitional government beyond June. The transitional constitution allows for a six month extension of the scheduled election date with an option to renew for an additional six months. Despite the uncertainty over when elections will actually take place, the IEC has begun preparations to open 64 satellite offices throughout the country. The IEC has begun recruiting approximately 40,000 election staff to initiate voter identification and registration. The IEC has also signed an agreement with a network of churches to involve them in the census and voter identification.

**Militia leaders arrested.** On March 1, GDRC authorities in collaboration with MONUC arrested Floribert Ndjabu, the leader of the Nationalist and Integrationist Front (FNI), one of six militias operating in Ituri District, Orientale Province, for the killing of nine MONUC troops on February 25. In addition, two of Ndjabu's associates, Goda Sukpa, the FNI's former military commander, and Germain Katanga, who headed a branch of the FNI, were placed under house arrest in Kinshasa's Grand Hotel. In keeping with efforts by MONUC and the GDRC to dismantle militias in Ituri District, on April 10, local authorities announced the arrest of Kahwa Panga Mandro, the leader of another militia known as the Parti pour l'Unité et Sauvegarde d'Intégrité du Congo (PUSIC). Local authorities continue to search for other militia leaders.

**Sporadic clashes in Ituri District.** Since the beginning of 2005, ongoing conflict and instability in Ituri District has reportedly displaced an estimated 80,000 people. According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), rival militias have systematically pillaged and burned villages and schools, while the incidence of sexual violence has rapidly increased, and the health status of the displaced population has deteriorated due to their inability to access adequate medical attention, safe water, and sanitation. Fighting between MONUC and militiamen has continued sporadically since the February 25 killing of the nine MONUC troops, resulting in frequent interruption of the delivery of humanitarian services to newly displaced populations. In late April, areas south of Bunia became insecure for humanitarian activity when clashes erupted between militiamen and soldiers of the new Congolese integrated army, recently stationed in the area.

**Cholera outbreak in Ituri.** In April, Congolese health authorities declared an epidemic due to the rising number of cholera-related deaths in Kafe IDP camp in Ituri District. In response, Médecins Sans Frontières opened a cholera center in Kafe, as well as in two other IDP camps in the area. Since 1998, South Kivu Province has been a cholera-endemic area, with reported cases increasing each year during the rainy season. This year, however, the rise was particularly high with up to 300 cases reported per week affecting the entire Province, especially the city of Bukavu, and Uvira and Fizi

territories. UNICEF and aid agencies intensified emergency activities by supporting cholera treatment centers, community hygiene and sanitation sensitization campaigns and water chlorination at provision points in affected areas.

**Former combatants disarm.** According to MONUC, 10,000 militiamen from five of the six active militia groups in Ituri District have voluntarily surrendered weapons and joined the demobilization program since March. In addition, MONUC announced that civilian and military leaders of the main Rwandan armed group in the DRC territory—FDLR—had expressed willingness to stop the armed struggle and join the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement, and reintegration (DDR) program. Other groups have not agreed, however, and raids on Congolese villages in South Kivu and North Kivu continue.

**Food assistance.** During the week of April 8, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) released more than 155 metric tons (MT) of food commodities for targeted distributions, including school feeding projects in Beni and Rutshuru territories, North Kivu. In addition, the growing number of returnees from Tanzania to Baraka and Uvira prompted WFP to revise food distribution plans in order to meet food requirements. According to the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Uvira, 5,400 returnees from Tanzania are residing temporarily in transit camps in Baraka and Uvira. In Orientale Province, WFP canceled planned food distributions in Ubundu due to the tense atmosphere caused by the presence of some militiamen demanding salaries and promotion in the DRC regular army. To the south, in the provincial capital of Kisangani, WFP released 97 MT of food aid for distribution to 24,375 beneficiaries, including students enrolled in school feeding projects, malnourished children, and participants of food-for-work activities.

**MONUC mandate extended.** On March 30, the UNSC adopted Resolution 1592 to extend MONUC's mandate until October 1. Furthermore, the Security Council demanded that the Governments of Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC stop violations of the arms embargo imposed in July 2003, and cease support for armed groups operating in the region.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 1, 2004, U.S. Ambassador Roger A. Meece redeclared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. To date in FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$6.1 million in emergency assistance to the DRC. Targeting conflict-affected populations, USAID/OFDA provides assistance in the health and nutrition sectors, supplies emergency shelter and household equipment to IDPs and returnees, contributes to the transportation of humanitarian personnel and materials, and supports the return of agricultural production in areas where stability has been restored.

Current USAID/OFDA projects and programs are being

implemented through multiple international non-governmental organizations, as well as through the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), OCHA, and UNICEF. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports two Program Officers in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation and provide program recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington, D.C.

To date in FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has authorized 19,670 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$15.3 million, for WFP.

USAID/OTI helps stabilize and revitalize war-torn communities in DRC by facilitating community-level reintegration of war-affected youth and increasing broad awareness of key transition issues. To date in FY 2005, OTI has authorized \$5 million for its Synergie d'Education Communautaire et d'Appui à la transition (SE\*CA) program. The program, implemented by Chemonics, focuses on community reintegration and revitalization and consists of basic life skills and vocational training (Youth Education and Skills/YES) provided by Master Trainers; community-driven small grants to participating communities, providing a chance to put learned skills into practice; and TAP (Transition Awareness and Participation) grants intended to reinforce YES messages through media-focused activities such as information campaigns, support for short wave broadcasts of Radio Okapi, and activities to improve the professional capacity of indigenous community radio stations. USAID/OTI has awarded 75 small in-kind grants, totaling \$1.9 million, in FY 2005.

To date in FY 2005, USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance (USAID/DG), through the Victims of Torture Fund, has provided approximately \$1.8 million to assist female survivors of rape through implementing partners. These projects offer women post-rape reconstructive surgery at two hospitals in North and South Kivu provinces.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided more than \$2.5 million to UNHCR for refugee programs in the DRC in FY 2005. State/PRM has also provided more than \$5.1 million to support refugees from the DRC living in Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Republic of Congo through UNHCR and WFP. In addition, State/PRM has provided \$51.5 million in unearmarked funds to UNHCR for Africa and \$34.7 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A portion of these unearmarked funds supports UNHCR and ICRC programs in the DRC as well as support for Congolese refugees in other countries.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Action Against Hunger (AAH/USA)	Food security	Equateur	\$800,000
FAO	Coordination in agriculture/food security	Countrywide	\$500,000
Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Food security, agriculture	Katanga, Maniema, South Kivu	\$399,835
GOAL	Health, nutrition, and infrastructure	South Kivu	\$697,580
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, emergency relief supplies, capacity building	South Kivu	\$903,583
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
Première Urgence	Agriculture	Orientale	\$432,962
Solidarités	Food distribution and food security	North Kivu	\$261,853
UNICEF	IDP/returnees, nutrition rehabilitation, health, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
World Vision	Health, nutrition, food security	North Kivu	\$199,987
Administrative	Various	Countrywide	\$398,452
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO DRC</b>			<b>\$6,094,252</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	19,670 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$15,330,400
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO DRC</b>			<b>\$15,330,400</b>
<b>USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE</b>			
Chemonics	Community-Focused Reintegration Program (including small grants), YES and TAP grants, including support for Radio Okapi	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE TO DRC</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>USAID/DG ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
IRC	Assistance to rape victims	North and South Kivu	\$1,788,688
<b>TOTAL USAID/DG ASSISTANCE TO DRC</b>			<b>\$1,788,688</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Refugee assistance	Countrywide	\$2,550,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO DRC</b>			<b>\$2,550,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$28,213,340</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$30,763,340</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of May 5, 2005.<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.<sup>3</sup> USAID/DG assistance represents Development Assistance funds. USAID/DG has also programmed an additional \$1.4 million during FY 2005.


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